

International Wedding Customs Quiz

1. In which country does the groom and then the bride drink Sake (rice wine) three times? The bride also traditionally wears a triangular band on her head, known as the tsunokakushi, or horn cover, to hide the horns of jealousy which supposedly all women possess.

A - Japan

2. In which country does the bride wear a red dress (symbolising good fortune, love and joy)?

A - China amongst others

3. In which country do the married female relatives remove the bride's veil and replace it with an apron signifying her new married status - Saudi Arabia, Canada, Croatia?

A - Croatia

4. In Africa is the dowry given to the groom or the bride's family?

A - Bride

5. Why in Korea are ducks included in the wedding procession?

A - Because they mate for life.

6. In which country does the wedding cake have a tiny sapling (baby tree) on top - Poland, Greenland, Bermuda?

A - Bermuda

7. In which country did a couple used to jump over a broom to the sound of drums to declare publicly that they were married - Zaire, Chile, America?

A - America (amongst African slaves who were not allowed formally to marry or live together).

8. In Malaysia each wedding guest is given a beautifully decorated hard-boiled egg. What does it symbolise?

A - fertility

9. In which country do guests dance with the bride and pay her for the privilege of giving her a kiss - France, Scotland or Hungary?

A - Hungary

10. Why, in Germany, does the groom deliberately kneel on the bride's hem during prayer at the ceremony?

A - to show that he will keep her in line.

11. Why, in Germany, does the bride step on the groom's foot when they both rise from prayer?

A - to show that she will assert herself.

12. In which country do the bride and groom dance in the middle whilst the guests dance around them putting money into the Bride's hand - Albania, Fiji or Iceland?

A - Albania

13. In which country does the new wife serve her husband a meal after which he will tie a bundle of money to her dress symbolising their future roles - America, India or Papua New Guinea?

A - India

14. In which country are the bride and groom cut with a razor on their hands, feet and back and then the blood from each wound is mixed to symbolise their union. Then ashes and a mix of plant roots are applied so that the scars will be blue - Botswana, Peru, Kazakhstan?

A - Botswana

15. In Finland the brides wear golden crowns. After the wedding, unmarried women dance in a circle around the blindfolded bride waiting for her to place the crown on someone's head. What does this represent?

A - whoever is crowned will be the next to marry.

16. In which country are 7 benedictions recited over a glass of wine, then a little is drunk by the bride and the groom after which the groom shatters the glass under his heel - Greece, Spain or Israel?

A - Israel.

17. In Sweden wives wear three rings. If the first two are for engagement and marriage, what is the third for?

A - motherhood.

18. In which country does the bride leave her family to join her husband's family with the Holy Qur'an held over her head - Pakistan, Madagascar, Paraguay?

A - Pakistan.

19. In Russia after the couple are crowned they race each other to stand on a white rug. What do you think that this symbolises?

A - the first there is believed to be the master of the household.

20. In Poland the bride tries to drink a glass of wine without spilling a single drop. What does it signify if she spills some?

A - Bad Luck for the marriage.

21. In which country are two small fir trees planted on either side of the door to the couple's house until they are blessed with a child - Canada, Norway or the Sudan?

A - Norway

22. In England our wedding anniversaries are marked by particular minerals which signify the importance of the anniversary eg the 50th wedding anniversary is Gold. The idea is that the husband and wife exchange gifts made from that mineral on that particular anniversary. Try to match the following anniversaries with their minerals.

Silver Tin Ruby Diamond China Wood Cotton

5 20 25 60 1 40 10

A - 1=cotton, 5=wood, 10=tin, 20=china, 25=silver, 40=ruby, 60=diamond.